





ALTERNATIVE TO PTO/SB/08a/b (06-03)

<b>Substitute for form 1449/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete If Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/731,432
				Filing Date	December 10, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Helmut D. Link
				Art Unit	<del>5731</del>
				Examiner Name	<del>Not yet assigned</del>
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	246472003920

RS	27.	Search protocol dated 3/30/2005 showing the family information of WO 2004080333	
RS	28.	Search Report dated 3/18/2005	
RS	29.	International Search Report dated 3/22/2005	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if information considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	/Richard Shaffer/ (08/30/2006)	Date Considered	08/30/2006
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va-109269



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Examiner Name	<del>Not yet assigned</del>				
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	246472003920

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
RS	1.	6,159,214	12-12-2000	Michelson	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
RS	2.	WO-01/62166-A2	8-30-2001			✓

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RS	3.	International Search Report mailed July 17, 2003, directed to related foreign application	

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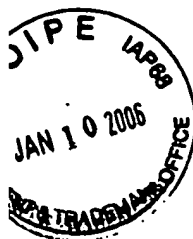
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
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RS	1.	4,289,123	9/1981	Dunn	
	2.	4,672,957	6/1987	Hourahane	
	3.	4,820,305	4/1989	Harms et al.	
	4.	4,892,545	1/1990	Day et al.	
	5.	4,936,848	6/1990	Bagby	
	6.	5,059,194	10/1991	Michelson	
	7.	5,397,364	3/1995	Kozak et al.	
	8.	5,484,437	1/16/1996	Michelson	
	9.	5,534,005	7/1996	Tokish et al.	
	10.	5,591,235	1/1997	Kuslich	
	11.	5,735,856	4/1998	McCue et al.	
	12.	5,772,661	6/30/1998	Michelson	
	13.	5,797,909	8/25/1998	Michelson	
	14.	6,080,155	6/27/2000	Michelson	
	15.	6,083,228	7/4/2000	Michelson	
	16.	6,096,038	8/1/2000	Michelson	
	17.	6,224,599	5/1/2001	Baynham et al.	
	18.	6,224,607	5/1/2001	Michelson	
	19.	2001/0010002	7/2001	Michelson	
	20.	2001/0010001	7/26/2001	Michelson	
	21.	6,270,498	8/7/2001	Michelson	
	22.	2002/0091390	7/11/2002	Michelson	
	23.	2002/0091392	7/11/2002	Michelson	
	24.	6,440,139	8/27/2002	Michelson	
	25.	6,447,512	9/10/2002	Landry et al.	
	26.	6,447,545	9/10/2002	Bagby	
RS	27.	2002/0138079	9/26/2002	Cohen	

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RS	28.	WO 00/53127-A1	9/14/2000	Sulzer Spine-Tech Inc.		
RS	29.	WO 01/49188-A1	7/12/2001	Spinal Concepts, Inc.		
RS	30.	DE 201 10 393-U1	9/27/2001	Allocon GMBH	translation of abstract only	

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RS	31.	DE 201 10 402-U1	9/27/2001	Allocon GMBH	translation of abstract only	
RS	32.	DE 102 26 496	1/16/2003	Allocon GMBH	translation of abstract only	

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RS	2.	6,517,544	2/2003	Michelson	
RS	3.	2003/0135277	7/2003	Bryan et al.	

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